THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to bring 12 million hectares of land under bio-fuel crops. However, bio-fuel plantations comprising jatropha and karanj have been undertaken in the country with Government assistance.

(c) The bio-fuel plantations are encouraged in the degraded lands.

(d) No, Sir.

Shortage of manpower in healthcare sector

*479. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is facing an acute shortage of manpower in the healthcare sector and most of the physicians are migrating to developed countries like Britain and US;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has formulated any strategy to meet the demand for doctors in the country's healthcare sector and to check the brain drain; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) As per information furnished by Medical Council of India (MCI), the total number of registered allopathic doctors in the country is 7,02,580. This, the allopathic doctor-population works out to 1:1634. In addition, there are more than six lakhs practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy in the country. Taking all these numbers together, the doctor-population ratio comes to 1:870. There are 271 medical colleges in the country with annual intake of 31,122 who add upto the existing medical manpower.

In order to expand the facilities of the medical education and health related services, under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna (PMSSY), the Government has decided to set up six AIIMS like institutions in the under-served States and also to upgrade 13 existing Government medical colleges/ institutions in 10 States. Further, the Government encourages setting up of new medical colleges in the Government as well as private sector and also an increase in intake capacity of medical students. Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), all PHCs are envisaged to be strengthened by upgrading single doctor PHC to two-doctors PHC by posting of AYUSH practitioner and skilled nurses at PHC level.

Government have also recognized the Post-Graduate Degrees given by institutions in five countries, *viz.* U.K., U.S.A., Canada, Australia and New Zeland, in order to remove barriers from and encourage the return of Indian doctors working overseas who may have acquired their specialist qualifications in these English speaking developed countries.

Breast Cancer

†*480. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the number of women who die every year due to breast cancer in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the hospitals/primary healthcare centres in the country are not properly detecting breast cancer cases at the first stage;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.